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of those who seek social betterment by means of law if the author's point of view is correct.

Fortunately, however, his material, even with all its evidence of freak legislation and hastily made statutes, will not lead all his readers to his discouraging conclusion—indeed, the last chapters of the book, discussing the methods by which law making may be improved, show that the author himself does not fully accept his own argument.

The last two-thirds of *Popular Law Making* give chapters to the various branches of our social legislation. Laws on business affected with a public interest, on trusts, corporations, labor regulations, elections, racial and divorce legislation and criminal law and police are summarized in an easy and pleasing style though the author does not neglect the varied opportunities to castigate our state legislatures which his subject affords. The tone of the book is with few exceptions decidedly opposed to popular law making. Examples of this attitude are the belief in the unwisdom of the laws passed regulating rates and fares on railroads, doubts as to the changes proposed in the election of United States senators and as to primary elections. Woman's suffrage, the initiative, referendum and recall are of little promise or are openly opposed. It is a satisfaction to note that the author approves the legislation regulating the labor of women and children.

This book falls short of what the average reader will expect. It fails at two points. The treatment is sketchy and the repetitions and contradictions in thought and statement of fact are disconcerting. Secondly, the point of view is that of the man who worships the common law to such an extent that he overlooks the fact that the law is a progressive science, and that one of the greatest facts in its present development is the importance of the changes being wrought by statutory enactment.

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**Sykes, Ella C.** *Persia and Its People.* Pp. 350. Price, \$2.50. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

At this time, when the control of Persia by Russia or Great Britain has become one of the big questions of the East, this book on Persia will be read with great interest. It gives a comprehensive survey of the country, its physical characteristics, government, religion and all that pertains to its people. The author states that the book is the result of two visits to Persia, extending over a period of about three years. Some of the descriptions come from her own observations, but much of it is taken from the writings of other English travelers, whom she quotes frequently. The book is a popular description of Iran and cannot be called scholarly. However, the poor arrangement of some of the material and the occasionally awkward English are forgotten in the interest the book awakens. Much valuable information is given and the author is in sympathetic touch with the country she describes.

The inspiring and glorious account of Persia's past serves as a gorgeous background for the Persia of to-day, with its crumbling ruins, its poverty and sterility, its corrupt and unwise government, the oppression of the peasants and trades people. The lack of communication checks real nationality and makes it impossible to tap the resources of the country. The Mohammedan faith is blamed for much of the inertia of the people. The belief in fate, the petrifying education of the men, and the ignorance and bondage of the women make real progress impossible.

The writer closes with a quotation from the Persian meaning "Good luck to Iran," and expresses the hope that some great Persian will arise and lead his country to prosperity. Perhaps this wish will be fulfilled by the British, who have already paved the way by their efficient policing of the Gulf of Oman.

LURENA WILSON TOWER.

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Turnor, C. *Land Problems and National Welfare*. Pp. xvii, 343. Price, \$2.50. New York: John Lane Company, 1911.

This book is evidence of the continued interest in agricultural problems among the people of Great Britain. It is written by a landowner, who came into an estate of 4200 acres in 1905, and gave up his profession as an architect to act the part of country gentleman. After four years of progressive and profitable farming, he retired from active farming, rented his estate, and apparently became a politician and writer. The present volume gives the author's reflections and conclusions on the subjects of land-holding, agricultural organization, economics, education, politics, and imperial federation.

Mr. Turnor concludes, among other things, that small holdings should be encouraged, but "not unduly" so. Landowners should cultivate the soil more intensively and not preserve so much game; farmers should be better educated and more progressive; labourers should likewise be better educated and should take more interest in their work. Agricultural schools and courses of study along agricultural lines should be increased and extended; in this connection the author notes with approval the work done in the United States. In the chapter on "Political Economy and the Land" the author approves of import taxes on foodstuffs, if they will "benefit the producer." His familiarity with the science of economics is sufficiently illustrated by the following sentence: "From the standpoint of political economy, the middleman, the distributor, is not as useful a citizen as the producer" (p. 208).

The remedies, which are discussed in the last three chapters, evidently lay nearest the writer's heart. These are almost purely political. "The chief problem for the agriculturist is how to make the agricultural influence a power within the House of Commons" (p. 262). As the best way to do this he advocates the formation of a new national party, to support which he would have all English farmers contribute two shillings each to a special Parliamentary fund.